

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the foregoing comments, is respectfully requested.

Claims 21-51 are pending in the application. No claim amendments are presented, thus, no new matter is added.

In the Office Action, Claims 21-25, 28, 35-39, 42 and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Patel et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,566,278, herein Patel); and Claims 26-27, 29-30, 35-34 and 45-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Patel.

Claims 21-25, 28, 35-39, 42 and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Patel. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as independent Claims 21, 35 and 51 recite novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Independent Claim 21 recites, a printer, comprising:

a communication interface;
an image forming device; and
a processor, connected to the communication interface and the image forming device, ***configured to report a printer status using an object oriented command...***

Independent Claims 35 and 51, while directed to alternative embodiments, recite substantially similar features. Accordingly, the remarks presented below are applicable to each of independent Claims 21, 35 and 51.

Thus, as described in an exemplary embodiment at pp. 14-15 and Figs. 4-5 of the specification, the physical printer itself is capable of sending status reports to a remotely connected device using an object oriented command.

Turning to the applied reference, Patel describes an object-oriented printing system that includes objects that provide query, data transfer, and control methods. Patel, however,

fails to teach or suggest that the printer in his system is configured to “***report a printer status using an object oriented command***” as recited in independent Claims 21, 35 and 51.

In rejecting the above noted features recited in the pending independent claims, the Office Action relies on col. 11, ll. 5-60, col. 10, ll. 50-64 and Figs. 5-7 of Patel. However, as discussed below, the components described in this cited portion of Patel are directed to the various components of a computer 400 remote from the physical printer that process the print data before the data is forwarded to the printer. None of these cited portions of Patel teach or suggest that the printer ***reports a printer status using an object oriented command***.

More particularly, col. 8, l. 27-col. 9, l. 14 of Patel describes that a document is generated at an application program 402 of a computer 400, and the generated document is transmitted to a printer. More particularly, this portion of Patel describes that a printing interface 424 of a client computer 400 generates an entity called a document folio, which includes text, graphics or a combination of the two, formatted and arranged in a manner specified by the application program 402 of the client device. Once the document folio is processed by each of the other entities shown in Fig. 5 of the computer 400, the document is passed to the printer handler 510, which is also located in the computer 400 (see Fig. 4).

Patel describes that the printer handler 510 is a type of printer driver which controls and drives a specific printer; its purpose is to convert text and graphic information into printer readable form for any particular printer type. The printer handler contains a despooler program 516 which retrieves spooled data from an intermediate storage 522 and provides the information to an imaging engine. The imaging engine 532 converts the incoming data stream into the command signals which are necessary to drive the printing elements to produce the final printed document. The commands are provided to the actual print device indicated by box 528 for printing.

Thus, in Patel's system, the print data is processed at the same computer 400 at which it is originated using an application program 402, and is converted into specific command signals necessary to drive the printing elements to produce the final printed document before it is provided to the actual print device. None of the components discussed in the cited portion of Patel actually involve receiving, or transmitting, data from/to the printer using an object oriented command.

More particularly, regarding the specific portions of Patel cited in the Office Action, col. 11, ll. 5-60 of Patel describes the operation of the printer handler 510 and the print handler server, which are each not located at the printer, and do not receive a printer status report from the printer. Further, col. 10, ll. 50-64 of Patel describes that the physical printer may have a personality "document" associated therewith, which may be supplied by the manufacturer of the printer as a shared "archive" or library indicating the capabilities of the printer. This personality document is used in a read-only mode by the printing system, and may be used by the printing system to reproduce a document on the printer. Thus, these "imaging objects" obtained from the personality "document" are merely objects (i.e. driver) used to format data so that it is properly prepared to be sent to the printer. This data is not printer status data, and is not sent from the printer using an object oriented command.

Therefore, Patel fails to teach or suggest that the physical printer in his system is capable of exchanging or interpreting data using object oriented commands. Instead, Patel's description focuses on the ability of the user computer, which is remote from the printer, to generate printer data. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, Patel fails to teach or suggest *a printer* including a processor *configured to report a printer status using an object oriented command*, as recited in independent Claims 21, 35 and 51.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 21, 35 and 51 (and the claims that depend therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Further, Applicant notes that Claims 31-33, 40, 41, 43 and 44 were not addressed in the Office Action. As these claims recite, *inter alia*, features directed to using Java (e.g. object oriented commands) as a print language, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims also patentably define over Patel.

Consequently, in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 21-51 is patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable consideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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